

The Leeds Eligibility Criteria For Access To Adult Specialist Palliative Care

Adult Specialist Palliative Care refers to those services where the core purpose and function is to provide palliative care to people aged 18 years and above. In Leeds these services are the LTHT Palliative Care Team, St Gemma's Hospice and Sue Ryder Wheatfields Hospice.

Eligibility to access Specialist Palliative Care (SPC) services is based on patient need and not diagnosis.

The patient will be assessed as meeting criteria by a SPC professional from LTHT, Community PCT, Hospice Day Services or Outpatients.

The patient can be assessed by telephone or at the first meeting by the SPC professional.

Criteria:

1. The patient has active, progressive and, usually, advanced disease for which the prognosis is limited (although this may be several years) and the focus of care is quality of life.

AND

2. The patient has unresolved needs that cannot, currently, be met by the referring team.

These needs may be physical, psychological, social and/or spiritual.

Examples may include complicated symptoms, complex family situations, ethical issues regarding treatment choices, and complex advance care planning and end of life care.

Discharge Criteria:

- Patients who no longer meet the above criteria may be discharged from the specialist palliative care service.
- Patients and those important to them who do not meet criteria at first assessment or are discharged from services will be signposted or referred to appropriate support services
- The patient can be re-referred should they subsequently meet the eligibility criteria.

Approved - May 2022
Review - May 2027